

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ON CURRENT TURKISH  
ATTITUDES

FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY SAM COHEN APPEARED MAY 8, DATEDINED  
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ISTANBUL "TURKEY LOOKING TO ITS DEFENSES WITHOUT U.S. AID"  
"HOPES FOR NEW ARMS FADE; STRATEGY OVERHAUL SUGGESTED".

BEGIN QUOTE: THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FEELS QUITE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF AN AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL DECISION TO LIFT THE THREE-YEAR-OLD ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY.

UNDER THIS PRESUMPTION, THE TURKS NOW ARE TALKING ABOUT WHAT THEY MIGHT DO NEXT - AND HOW THEY COULD RETALIATE AGAINST WHAT IS REGARDED AS A HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

TURKISH HOPES FOR AN EARLY REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO HAVE FADED FOLLOWING THE NARROW PASSAGE (18-17), IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF A PROPOSAL TO REPEAL THE EMBARGO.

PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT REPORTEDLY WAS PERSONALLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE RESULT. SENIOR TURKISH POLICYMAKERS

SAID THE TREND WAS NOT GIVING ANY HOPE THAT THE HOUSE, AND EVEN MORE SO THE SENATE, WOULD LIFT THE ARMS BAN.

OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE WAY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN HANDLING THE MATTER. BY COMPARISON WITH THE DETERMINATION SHOWN ON OTHER ISSUES(SUCH AS THE MIDEAST ARMS PACKAGE), THE TURKS BELIEVE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT BEEN PUSHING CONGRESS HARD ENOUGH TO APPROVE ITS PROPOSAL ON THE TURKISH EMBARGO.

THIS LEADS MANY TURKS TO QUESTION WHETHER TURKEY REALLY SHOULD BE INTERESTED SO MUCH IN THE LIFTING OF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO, SINCE CONGRESS IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ADMINISTRATION IS NOT SHOWING GREAT ZEAL ABOUT IT.

SOME TURKS ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WHOLE MATTER AND SAYING THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED TURKEY SHOULD CHOOSE ITS OWN COURSE. AND THERE ARE THOSE, LIKE PROF. MUMTAZ SOYSAL, AN ADVISER OF MR. ECEVIT'S WHO HELPED TO DRAW UP THE RECENT TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS, WHO OPENLY DECLARE THAT "CONGRESSIONAL REJECTION (OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO) WOULD BE TO TURKEY'S ADVANTAGE."

MR. ECEVIT'S POSITION ON THIS, FOR THE TIME BEING, IS TO LET CONGRESS DO WHATEVER IT WANTS, AND NOT TO MAKE ANY BEHIND-THE-SCENES EFFORT TO INFLUENCE CONGRESSIONAL OR U.S. PUBLIC OPINION.

"WE SHALL NOT GO TO THE U.S. AND BEG FOR THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO," MR. ECEVIT SAID. THE TURKISH PRESS TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN THIS COMMENT AND SAID IT DEMONSTRATED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TURKISH AND THE GREEK ATTITUDES.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONCERN IN WESTERN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES HERE ON WHETHER PROFESSOR SOYSAL'S REMARKS, MADE IN WASH-

INGTON DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH RADIO AND TELE-VISION AND AN ARTICLE HE WROTE IN THE LEADING ISTANBUL DAILY MILLIYET, ACTUALLY REFLECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW. MR. SOYSAL WAS SENT TO WASHINGTON TO EXPLAIN TO U.S. OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSMEN THE NEW TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS.

MR. ECEVIT SAID PROFESSOR SOYSAL HAD EXPRESSED HIS "PERSONAL VIEWS" ABOUT THE EMBARGO. THIS HAS NOT DISSIPATED THE CONCERN, HOWEVER, SINCE IT HAS BECOME NOTICEABLE THAT SIMILAR VIEWS ARE GROWING AMONG TURKISH OFFICIALS.

WHAT MR. SOYSAL CONSIDERED "AN ADVANTAGE" FOR TURKEY IN A

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CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL TO LIFT THE ARMS BAN IS A COMPLETE REAPPRAISAL OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES. HE SAID TURKEY THEN WOULD BE FORCED TO CHANGE ITS POLICY AND THIS WOULD ENABLE IT TO AVOID BEING DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. IT ALSO WOULD ENABLE TURKEY TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF ITS ARMED FORCES CONSIDERABLY AND TO DRAW UP A NEW DEFENSE STRATEGY.

IN ADDITION TO THESE "LONG-TERM ADVANTAGES," IT ALSO WOULD SAVE TURKEY FROM THE PRESSURES OF THE GREEK LOBBY IN WASHINGTON AND ENABLE ANKARA TO ADOPT "A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT" ATTITUDE ON THE NEW PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS.

IT IS INTERESTING THAT JUST AT THE TIME THESE POSSIBILITIES ARE WIDELY DEBATED HERE, IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT A SPECIAL GROUP COMPOSED OF EXPERTS FROM THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES, THE GENERAL STAFF, AND THE ECONOMIC PLANNING ORGANIZATION HAS COMPLETED WORK ON "A NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE CONCEPT". THIS ADVISORY BODY IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD ADOPT ITS NEW DEFENSE POLICY ACCORDINGLY.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GROUP WILL PROPOSE THE CREATION OF A LOCAL ARMS INDUSTRY; THE AIMING OF DEFENSE STRATEGY NOT SOLELY AGAINST "THE NORTH" (THE SOVIET UNION), BUT OTHER POSSIBLE REGIONAL "ENEMIES" (GREECE, CYPRUS) AS WELL; REDUCING COMMITMENTS TOWARD NATO; AND CONTRIBUTING MORE ACTIVELY TO DETENTE. THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE KNOWN TO BE IN LINE WITH THE VIEWS OF MR. ECEVIT AND HIS GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE. VANCE

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